

# Improving Information Sharing

## Cross-Country Initiatives: a policy perspective

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Beneluxa Country Coordination for Austria  
2. WHO Fair Pricing Forum, 12 April 2019

## Austria is a Member of and contributes to ...

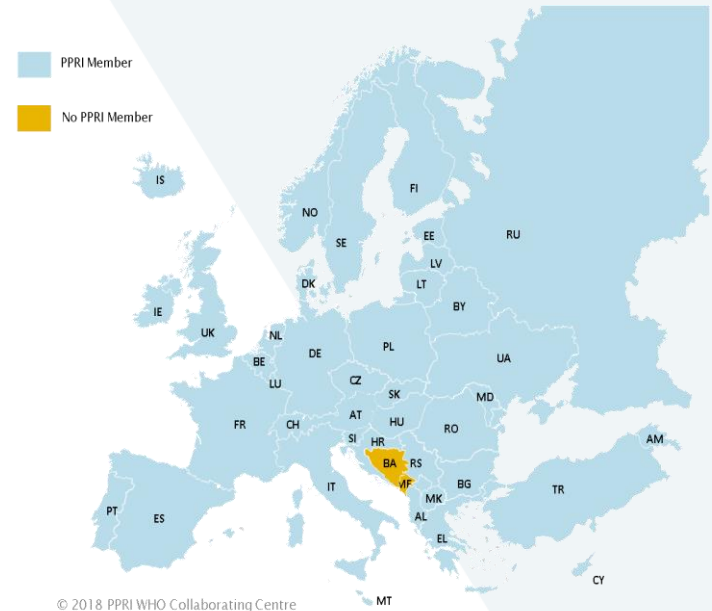
- Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI) Network
  - PPRI Secretariat hosted by Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG/Austrian Public Health Institute) - <http://ppri.goeg.at/>
- European Integrated Price Information Database - EURIPID
- Beneluxa Initiative on Pharmaceutical Policy
  - Multilateral agreement between Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands - <http://beneluxa.org/>

## Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI)

- **Voluntary network** of competent authorities of pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement
- **Aim:** to allow and promote an exchange of information and experience about pharmaceutical policies among the network members supported by scientific evidence and a common understanding and language on pharmaceutical issues
- **Started in 2005** as research project funded the European Commission, DG SANCO; co-funded by Austrian Ministry of Health
- **From 2008 on:** the network continues on a voluntary basis
  - As a countries driven network, PPRI Secretariat at Austrian Public Health Institute

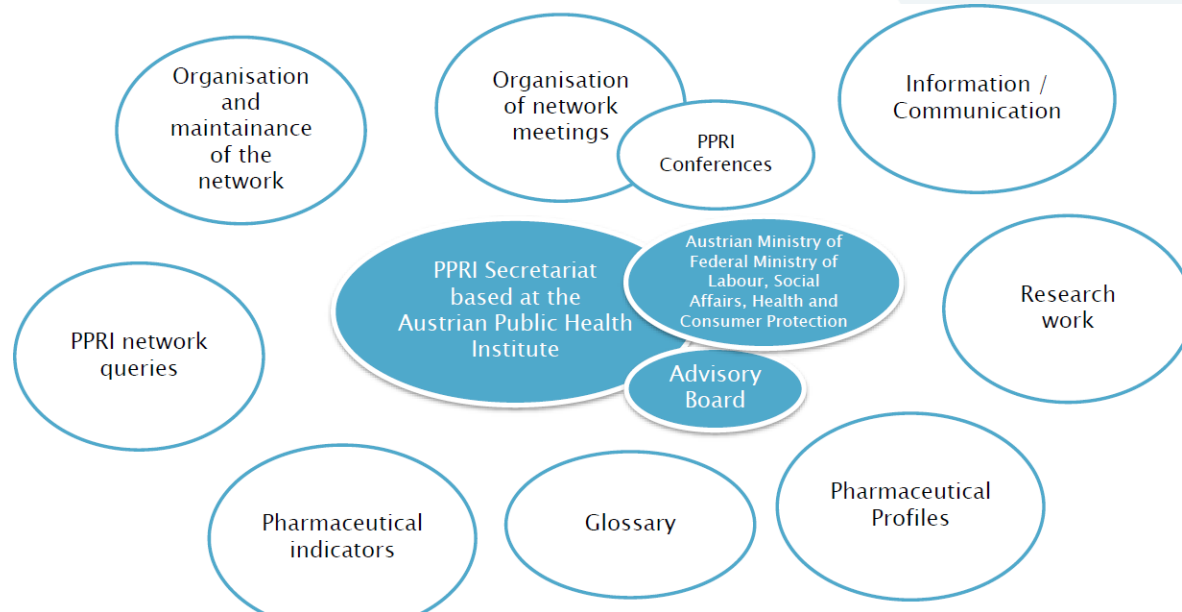
## Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI)

- 47 countries (around 80 institutions)
  - all 28 EU Member States, 15 further countries in the WHO EURO region (Armenia, Albania, Belarus, Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine, Turkey)
  - 3 non-European countries (Canada, South Africa, South Korea)
- Plus European / international institutions (WHO, OECD, European Commission, Worldbank Group)



# Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI)

- How does it work?



# Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Information (PPRI)

- Lessons learned:

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- Informal character is a success factor, PPRI network benefits from being a closed group – dialogue with stakeholder at other occasions
- Some kind of secretariat (administrative + content-wise) is required
- Communication platforms are required
- Confidential treatment of internal information - BUT: Share as much as possible (public domain)
- Start up financing but then self-financed (network members)

4th PPRI Conference:  
Medicines access challenge –  
The value of pricing and reimbursement policies  
23–24 October 2019, Vienna (Austria)



**Organisers:** WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies, Pharmacoeconomics Department at the Austrian Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH)

**Key topics:** The conference will look into current developments in pricing and reimbursement policies and future challenges. In order to foster the debate on equitable access to affordable and cost-effective medicines, the following perspectives will be discussed at the conference:

- » **Strand 1:** Local challenges, global learnings? What can other countries learn from best-practice examples in the field of pricing and reimbursement of medicines?
- » **Strand 2:** 'Fake' prices – Are price surveys still useful? The value of list prices against the backdrop of external price referencing and managed entry agreements.
- » **Strand 3:** Fix the future? Innovative policy options need to be developed, agreed upon and implemented.

**Target groups:**

- » Policy makers and payers in the field of pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement policies
- » Stakeholders (e.g. pharmacists, pharmaceutical companies, wholesalers, etc.)
- » Researchers

Registration and call for abstracts will start in **April 2019!**

<https://ppri.goeg.at/ppriconference2019>

Contact: [ppriconference@goeg.at](mailto:ppriconference@goeg.at)

Please  
save the  
date!

# EURIPID - European Integrated Price Information Database

- About EURIPID:
  - A voluntary non-profit **collaboration** of most European pricing and reimbursement authorities for the mutual sharing of price information of medicinal products
  - A **technical tool** to make prices of pharmaceuticals more transparent in Europe
  - An attempt to create a comprehensive, continuously maintained, easy-to-use **online database** of prices of reimbursed pharmaceuticals
- Euripid Collaboration developed twelve „Guiding Principles“ to guide a coordinated approach of competent authorities regarding the use of external reference pricing



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    = **Beneluxa**  
*Initiative on Pharmaceutical Policy*

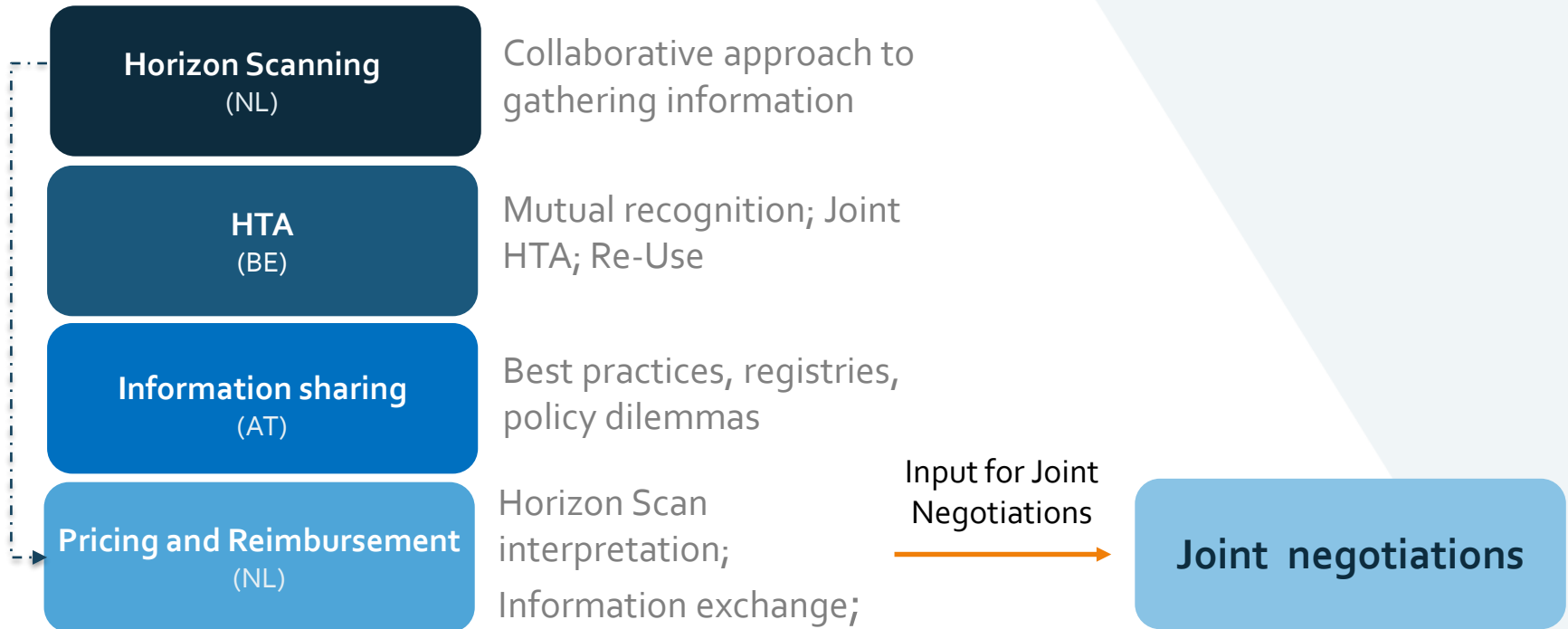
## Goals and Purpose

- Key goal is to **ensure access** to innovative therapies **at sustainable price levels**
- **Efficient use of existing resources** by seizing synergies and avoiding duplication(s) of work
- **Strengthening bargaining power** by uniting systems that face similar challenges
- Focus on **high-price medicines** and rare diseases
- Loose organisational setup and **case-by-case approach** to products
- Cooperation is **voluntary**, decisions on pricing and reimbursement remain national responsibility

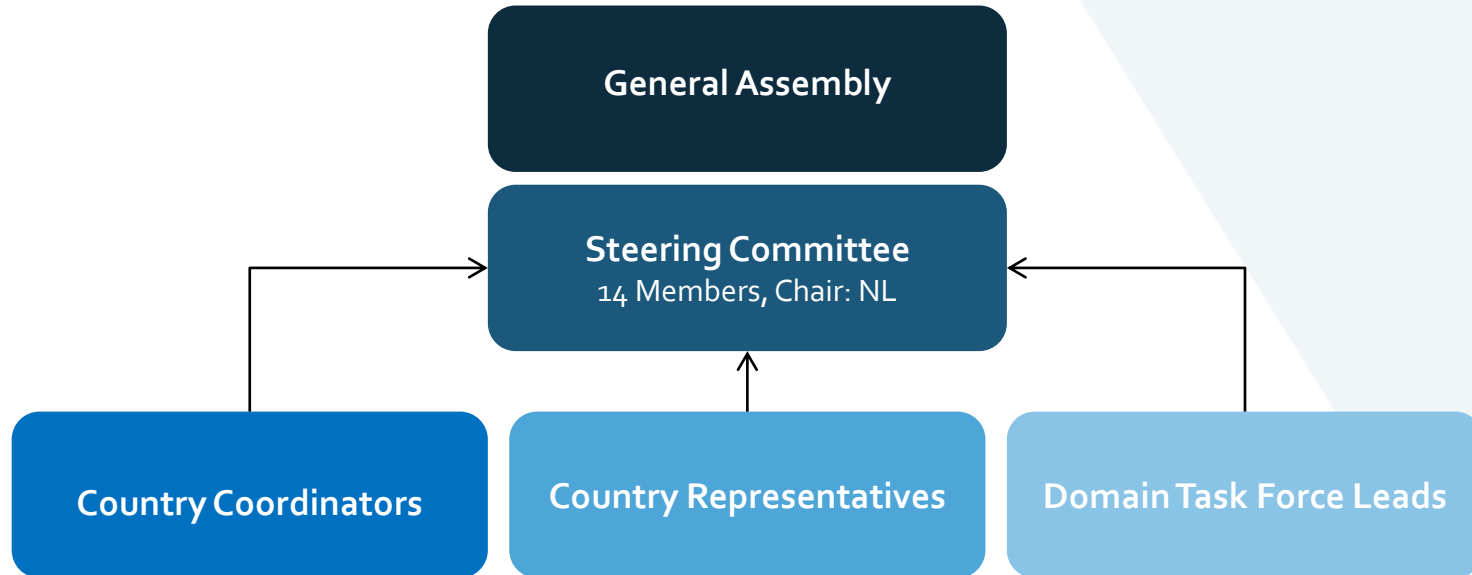
## Timeline

- Informal cooperation between Belgium and the Netherlands from 2012 onwards
- 2015 formal agreement and entry of Luxembourg
- 2016 entry of Austria, formation of Beneluxa
- 2018 entry of the Republic of Ireland

## Domains of Cooperation



# Organisational Structure



## Preconditions and Challenges

- Political mandate and commitment
- Joint establishment of working structures and process optimization
- Overcoming legal, organizational and language barriers
- Timelines
- Communication channel(s)
- Funding

## Learnings

- Once communication is running, information can be shared and cooperation can easily be extended to other working areas among cooperating institutions
- (Some) Processes are in fact mutually and easily adaptable
- Emergence of country clusters in Europe
- Cooperation strongly depends on individual willingness to contribute
- Stakeholder dialogue (incl. industry) is essential
- Pooling of resources and expertise

## International Horizon Scanning Initiative (IHSI)

- Initiated by Beneluxa, now joined by a number of other countries
- Formal Establishment expected in 2019/2020
- Advantages of early intelligence (deliverables IHSI):
  - The opportunity to plan future investments (real time database)
  - To ensure that health systems are able to embrace innovation in a sustainable way (high impact reports)
  - To decide where research and evaluation resources and efforts should be directed (long-term investments)
  - The return on investment is difficult to express in monetary terms, long term gains



## Further information and contact

[www.beneluxa.org](http://www.beneluxa.org)

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